# Twenty Dollar Bill

BY HARRIET A. NASH.

iman's stopped him, and he turned in wonder, to was a full in the busiof even the busy doca professional call next edial handshake with in the latter's hand a ister who had observ-

wealthy family in time after Miss furlined cloak it cost. But the exchanged glances

oneket-book was first just who put it there. itiously opened it, to og inside. And the tile as he heard it. another that the

could find time gifts. For cross, sleepy must be put to bed, and the has reigned in their home be rith goods of every

> this to appreciate these n I, my dear," he send, very pretty, but I

of ag she glanced around. leaf here I haven't any tuly, and the lamp and nestion all the provisions Holme's bill that has Only-there wasn't any

gifts we have by sighing for

lust see this, Martha.'

wenty-dollar bill.

Miss Black or some of their had been fixed. bough I don't know who there Tyler had no idea what his exact title she said, "who would might be-jocosely remarked that he thing and keep it a hoped they didn't mind crowding, they

she urged. And there for patient question, matter rested. But the was strongly inclined to de- left alone,

"what kind of a life get for less than twenty winter at Least."

ionation five miles distant. Mrs. Tyler decided to fuse to speak to me after this; and I disturbed. accompany her husband, that she might personally superintend the purchase, but on the morning chosen, the baby woke III ple together, and fretful, and the mother could not be hands that spared. So with many injunctions to look and whatever comes of it, because of what never well to the quality of the cloth and be you say." sure the lining was firm and well made, she saw him depart, running to the gate as they did so, the ragged criminal in the you," she began, "how grieved we are at to shrick after him instructions as to the corner staggered to his feet and stood beinten- buttonholes and to go first to the tailor's, fore them. Had they but known it, it to in the city. There were errands for several parishioners, and he desired to If somebody's said to me, twenty years by the spend some hours in the public library, ago, what you've just said to him, I magnan- and carry out a long-cherished plan of might have been a man today in place of of them visiting one of the city missions. But he what I be. Oh, go on: don't talk any sheyed his wife's instructions and went foolishness. gathering. first to the clothiers' coming out in a new such racket on me. districts who stylishly made coat, with no sense of the you want to; 'twon't do no hurt maybe, merry-mak, change save that he was more comfort, though I can tell you't won't do no good. which he forgot and left in the next place he entered. The errands finished, name of the boy I was fwenty years ago. the mission came next, then the library.

> confront a blue-conted policeman, remarked the policeman, while an excited looking young man behind him cried breathlessly, "That's him; hold him, don't let him get away."

"Excuse me, sir," said the bewildered menister, "but I really cannot be delayed. I fear I have already missed my train." Well, I reckon you have, my friend," replied the officer grimly. "But the city Il be pleased to give you free entertainment, so don't let that trouble you. The hed her first, and the best thing you can do is to come along time her was denied

"But, really, sir, you are laboring under a misapprehension; you can have no pos-

"Can't 1? Well, I know a man that has, find out, my professional friend. I've seen she sat motionless, her eyes riveted upon your kind before. You do the country parson act fairly, but it's a little over-

fore Mr. Tyler could be made to understand that he was under arrest. Even then he believed he had only been mistaken for another man, and protested over and over that it was all a mistake and he should lose his train. The appalling truth was made plain to him at last. It was he, and none other, who was wanted-the man who had bought an overcoat of Claus and Clothier that morning and paid for it with a twenty-dollar bill charged with passing counterfeit money.

Over and over he protested his innocence and tried to explain how the bill came to him. He was only greeted with incredulous smiles, and advised to say nothing until he had time for reflection. His dazed mind grasped only the mere outlines of the situation. He, Egra Tyler, pastor of the Gimfield Congregational Church, was under arrest. He tried to thought that struggled through his brain was of the publicity that would be given his case. He almost smiled as he won dered how his church would take it-the church that had been unable to bear their and let him go, John Jones would do as well as any one. Dr. John Jones would convey more dignity. But when a few moments later he was called to give his name, his truth-loving nature rebelled against the falsehood, and in a clear voice he answered, "Exra Tyler," going on without further questioning, to explain that he was paster of the Gimfield Congregational Church. He beard the charge against him, and for the first time began to realize the fact that the bill-that precious twenty-dollar bill-was valueless. There could be no doubt of it, they told one who had arrested him explained it all, and assured him there would be no trouble, if he was really innocent and

d a new overcoat, and I could prove where he get the bill. He had a confused sense of many people around, most of them looking miserable my dear; don't let us de- and unfortunate. One woman, carrying a baby, staggered as she tried to cross I can do with- the room. She was in beyond question. My old one is quite He wondered why they didn't do something for her, and felt relieved when a And I'm sure pleasant-faced matron approached and coaxed the baby to her arms. How pitifully the thin little arms contrasted with if its emential to the the rosy baby at home. the church for me to have a sat a ragged man of middle age, from the Lord can provide it. whose stolld face crime had banished ase the people can't com- every trace of a better nature. Opposite him was a well-dressed young fellow, his face buried in his hands. The minister's is a pocket-book with noth- heart throbbed with pain as he looked at grumbled the tired them and wondered how long since the But in a mo- one was like the other and what depths For accident- of degradation lay between. He wished fingers into one of the he were near enough to lay his hand on the bowed curly head-not much older than the little heads at home. His own sent they looked at each other trouble passed from his mind, the same mattered it so long as he was innocent? prans to the lips of both; Who And an emotion akin to the divine love "You don't think it and pity moved him, as he gazed on these do you?" he ask- fellow prisoners, who perhaps were guilty. Life must have been so hard for them-Tyler settled the question with temptations so strong and wills so weak. Regalive. It wasn't likely that He found himself, after a little, conr had sent it after neglecting him ducted to a cell with two others-strange-It was much more likely by enough the two on whom his attention The attendant-Mr.

were unusually full tonight. Mariha," chided her husband. To Mr. Tyler's relief, his elder commoment for uncharitable panion dropped upon the floor, in a half- away again and again, but it crept back drunken sleep. The boy, as if anxious to each time, until he turned and faced it repel all advances, had retired to the oplooked in the pocket-book posite corner, and resumed his attitude it empty. How had they of deep dejection. The minister watched I must be they him thoughtfully for a long time. At last decided Mrs. Ty- he draw nearer, and touched the boy's thought overwhelmed him. He would discretion they resolved at arm gently. A haggard, miserable face rather have been guilty himself. He could the meany, was raised to his-oh, so young.

"What do you want?" was the immatter rested. But the "My boy," Mr. Tyler said gently, "tell must be made for its ex- me how it happened," The boy shrank Tyler's annoyance, away, and ungraciously demanded to be hole sum to the cause of min- seizing him, he muttered a half apology, her oft-repeated angle and, as if to atone for his rudeness, added is shabby coat was causing a few words of explanation. Then slowly mong his flock availed to turn the longing for sympathy overcame him, and he poured forth a story of over-ina cheaper cont, and dulgence, dissipation, and debt, a pressing Martha?" he said, at need for money, and-the use of funds old he had grown, and began to realize

ence gave way. "Eara tain disgrace, perhaps years of prison The minister sat silent. In his country ow long would it wear? parish he had never met a case like this. things through the pock- He could recall nothing in his theological thought. The few people he met greeted and after taking several bottle I am If you've no regard training that fitted it. According to his and the people, do have a best knowledge and belief, he should shake hands and express their regret at pleased with the result that I am anxand not a coat I shan't have speak words of condemnation and warn- his disagreeable experience. He felt his lous that it be in reach of all who suffer a weary sigh as he, rejuct- choked them back. And when he opened unfortunate mistake. His wife met him & Co., Ltd., wholesale agents. ing. But the pity swell softling, left the room. "I'm his lips at last, there came from them at the door, full of questions and com-

heart would let him speak only of a proved for putting her elbows heavenly Father's love. When he ceased table.

in that bottle to have taken care of me, to tell her anything about it. He wearily If they'd put me alone in a cell, I should wished himself back in that gloomy staany friends left. My relatives will all re- crime, but with his faith in humanity undidn't suppose there was any one in heaven or on earth that cared. But & be-Heve you. I never heard it put that way

The two clasped hands warmly. And Mr. Tyler had several matters to attend was years since he had stood so erect. "Squire," he said, "the youngster's right. It's too late to work any He carried the old coat in a bundle, I tell you I don't want to be any better. I wouldn't change if I could. But in the I want to thank you for givin' this young He was hurrying through the winter twi- feller a lift." He staggered back to his ight to the station, with a vague fear corner, as if ashamed of the momentary that he had read too long and might miss interest he had shown, and the brief inalready his train, when a hand on his shoulder telligence died out of his hardened face.

The boy, worn out with deep emotion, copped upon the hard cot and slept. The inister sat through the long night wrapped in meditation. It was not until first gray streaks of dawn stole through the grated door, that he roused to a remembrance that he was a prisoner, charged with crime.

Early that morning, in one of the sumptuous homes of the city, a woman past middle age was partaking of a solng paper at the same time. For Mrs. Marsh was a business woman, watched the markets closely. Running her gyes slowly down the news columns, she suddenly started so violently as to overturn the coffee urn, and, regardless of the amber liquid soaking into the Just you come along, and you'll showy cloth and dripping upon the rug,

> suspicious looking character purhased a coat of Claus and Clothier yes terday morning, paying for it with a twenty-dollar bill clever counterfeit. The swindler, who was arrested as he was about to take the evening train for New York, claims to be the pastor of a church in Gimfield, and gave the name of Ezra Tyler, which is believed to be assumed.

> Mrs. Marsh rang the bell for a maid to repair damages, and, paper in hand, left "I wish I could think it was a mistake," she sollloquized as she tied on her bonnet, "But it's too much like him. Nobody but Ezra bould get himself into such a scrape as this. Well, he was quite right when he declared he had no head acknowledge it.

brother dated from his entering the minstry. Many years younger than she, he will asserted itself. He would study theology instead of banking, and he would marry the girl of his choice. The result had been utter estrangement and a sli-

This morning Mrs. Marsh's lawyer, lisening to her story, smiled to himself, as read beneath her calm, almost indifferent manner her longing for a recon-"For he's proved me in the wrong," she said candidly, "As a business man, he would have ruined himself and all his friends by this time, And I intend to keep an eye on him after this." And the lawyer, as he closed his desk prepared to accompany her, remarked under his breath, that the working of a woman's mind was past his

influence can accomplish much, and before noon Ezra Tyler walked forth a free man, the charge against him withdrawn, He hardly knew how it was brought His sister, greeting him as though they had parted the day before, had announced the facts to him, and knowing she had attended to it, he had troubled his head with details. He was far more interested in the case of his once upon the employers, where he argued the matter with such persistency. that they finally consented not to prosccute, if the money was refunded.

Mrs. Marsh grumbled not a little, wrote amused attorney added his mite by consenting to give the young man a position in his office, where he would be under strict supervision and out of temptation's

s his sister's house, he was by no means were yet to be confronted. If he only knew where that bill came from! That was a mystery which must be solved before the world could be entirely assured of his innocence. With curious persistency the thought kept coming to him. others had declared the pocket-book Mr. Tyler was the least suspicious of men, but the events of the past twenty-four hours had sadly disturbed pared for any strange solution of He remembered that Martha had urged him to say nothing about the all was not right about it? Could she have placed it there? And where could she have obtained it? He put the thought squarely, determined to reason it down. But to his horror, all his reasoning powers, brought to bear upon the matter, suspicion. The confirmed not mention it to Maria, who had never approved of his marriage. How could be And how could he face his people now? ever stand in his pulpit again? All the with his sister turned to ashes. Then some gentler impulse the good he had tried to do his fellow prisoner seemed a dull, dead thing. The ooy would soon be in trouble again, he

not his own. Before him now was cer- that this careworn man was not her boy. As the train grew into Gimfield that night, Mr. Tyler stepped from it with the any consequence what his parishioners his heart hypocrisy in allowing them A double blow: "Yes, we had quite a man as Eara," she said to her that tender, all-absorbing love for the guilty ones of earth, for whom too often was some delay in purchasing the he had felt only contempt. He struggled by some power beyond himself as a some delay in purchasing the he had felt only contempt. He struggled with himself in vain. His brain told him so important an article could with himself in vain. His brain told him sent away from the table for dropping his knife, and Lizzle was sharply related to the city, twenty- to repentance, before it was too lote. His his knife, and Lizzle was sharply related to the city, twenty- to repentance, before it was too lote. His his knife, and Lizzle was sharply re-

thought bitterly; he might as well have

left him to his fate. He grew quiet, and

begged his sister to let him alone. And

Mrs. Marsh noticed for the first time how

speaking the room was very still. Even All the time Mrs. Tyler was putting the the heavy breathing in the other corner children to bed, her husband meditated. Should he tell her that he knew what she Presently the boy raised his head with had done, or should he not? He could a deflant gesture. "See here," he said, not bear to hear her aou to her guilt by and slipped a little vial into the minister's denying it. But if she believed him ighand. "I didn't mean to go to prison. If norant, she might question him concernit came to that, there was stuff enough ing his arrest. He felt he could not bear have swallowed it before now. I haven't tion-room, in the midst of vice and

The door-bell rang, and Mrs. Tyler, coming down at that moment, ushered into the room Miss Black and her little before. And I'm going to stand my trial, nephew. Miss Black's face were an expression of righteous indignation. Jimmle's eyes were swollen, and he hung be-"I have no words to tell the result of Jimmie's naughtiness. It was he who put that counterfelt bill in the pocket-book-just before the party dispersed. My brother-in-law took it at the bank, and had brought it home to examine by our microscope. This all comes allowing young children at such bill was counterfeit-

"I only just took it to show the boys," faltered Jimmle, 'n then I thought what a good joke 'twould be to put it in there. never thought a man that knew so much as the minister'd be fooled by it." 'We are very much annoyed," commenced Miss Black, but her paster, his

face wreathed in smiles, interrupted: "Never mind, Jimmie," he said. "You're nice little boy, and I am glad you did That is"-for Miss Black looked scandalized-"I should say, I am very glad to know who did it. And it has proved how even our mistakes-for I think we won't call it anything more serious than mistake, Jimmie-may be used for others' good. Sometime, when you are a little older, Jimmie, I will tell you a story of another boy who made a mistake,"

"Martha," Mr. Tyler said, after the vests had gone, "can we not sing 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow'?" "I'm afraid it would wake the children

Ezra," replied the tired mother, "Then let us read the one hundred and third Psalm; and after that I have a long story to tell you about last night and to-

But there was one part of the story that Mrs. Tyler never heard.

## FROM THE PULPIT

PRAISE FOR DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE.

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The most recent indorsement is that fession and a wife, the young man's coming from Rev. noch Hill, pastor of the M. E. church of Grand Junction, Iowa who says:

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